

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. By way of this Amendment, claims 2, 7, and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, and 16-20 are currently pending in the present application. Of those, claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 17, and 19 have been amended, and claims 1, 6, 12, and 19 are independent claims.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment after final in that the claim amendments only further clarify limitations previously set forth, place the claims in allowable form, and do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1, 6, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. Patent No. 4,736,208). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, especially in view of claims 1, 6, and 19 as now amended.

On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter. By way of this response, Applicant

has amended claims 1, 6, and 19 to include subject matter somewhat similar to that which was previously recited in claim 4. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-5, 8-11, and 20 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1, 6, and 19.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the above rejection, and allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 19, and 20 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 7, 12-16, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Schmidt in view of Motchenbacher (U.S. Patent No. 3,232,099). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter. By way of this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 12, and 19 to include subject matter somewhat similar to that which was previously recited in claim 4. As such, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 12, and 19, and subsequently, claims 3, 7, 13-16, 18, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the above rejection, and allowance of claims 1, 3, 7, 12-16, 18, and 20 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

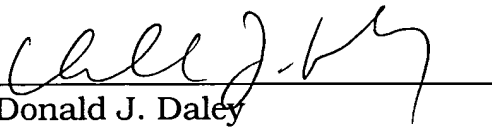
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$450.00 is attached.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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